

Fire co-op celebrates accomplishments

Blue Mountain Eagle

In recognition for an outstanding year of accomplishments, representatives from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office and Keep Oregon Green joined the Grant-Harney Fire Prevention Co-op for its 2019 review and 2020 look ahead meeting on Dec. 18 at Silvie Valley Ranch.

The co-op is a consortium of fire prevention and emergency services agencies and entities in Harney and Grant counties.

Stephanie Stafford, fire prevention coordinator for the Office of the State Fire Marshal in Salem, shared that, although her focus is primarily structural fire prevention, wildfires are also on their radar. The Fire Marshal's office is integrally involved during conflagrations such as during the 2015 Canyon Creek Complex.

Keep Oregon Green is the oldest Keep Green program in the country, said President and CEO Kris



Contributed photo

The Grant-Harney Fire Prevention Co-op was joined by representatives from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office and Keep Oregon Green at its Dec. 18 meeting at Silvie Valley Ranch.

Babbs. Its goal is to prevent human-caused wildfire.

During 2019, co-op members participated in and sponsored numerous educational and fire prevention activities including school programs, fair booths, hunters booths and celebrations for Smokey Bear's 75th birthday in both counties.

Plans for 2020 include

expansion of the Red Flag program, enhanced fire prevention and education programs for school groups including high school, coordination of hunter booth activities to target the most beneficial locations and programs, and greater contact with tourists and the public traveling through eastern Oregon.

Mark Howell, fire pre-

vention officer for the Blue Mountain Ranger District, was presented with a commemorative Smokey Bear 75 Year coffee cup by the co-op in recognition of his commitment and outstanding accomplishments during his tenure on the Malheur National Forest. Howell is transferring to the Mark Twain National

County protects property rights near Meadowbrook Quarry

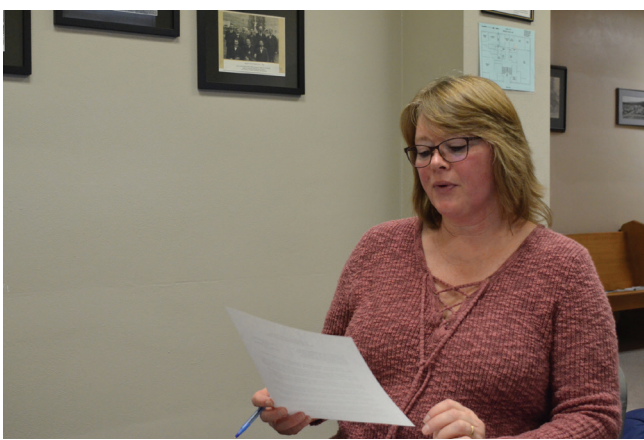
By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Court adopted a county ordinance that will protect landowners' rights near a significant aggregate site.

Shannon Springer, the county planning director, discussed with the court Jan. 8 the updated ordinance to be added to the Grant County Comprehensive Plan Amendment Ordinance of January 2020. The ordinance includes an updated Economic, Social, Environmental and Energy analysis adopted by the county court on Nov. 13.

The adoption of the ESEE was to comply with a remand from the Land Use Board of Appeals, which upheld the county's decision to have a 5© level of protection of the aggregate site, rather than the 5(b) level requested by the Oregon Department of Transportation, which will use the quarry.

"The county court approved the significant aggregation site with the 5© level of protection, went through the process and created an ordinance indicating it had a 5© level of protection," Springer said. "ODOT appealed the decision to the Land use Board of Appeals. What they (county attorneys) came back with is they (LUBA) remanded the case to the county court because the ESEE analysis did not



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Grant County Planning Director Shannon Springer reads an ordinance regarding protections around the Meadowbrook Quarry approved and adopted on Jan. 8.

address all of the impacts that could possibly occur to the aggregate site."

There were many testimonies in the records from the county planning commission and county court hearings that addressed matters related to ESEE, according to Springer. The problem was that the information did not get reintroduced into the specific ESEE analysis.

"As a result of the LUBA remand, the ESEE analysis was updated to reflect all of the things that were talked about in the testimony of the hearings," Springer said.

After the amended final order on Nov. 19, which accepted the amended ESEE analysis, the county waited to make sure ODOT was not going to appeal, Springer said.

Since the comprehensive plan is an ordinance, it has to

be changed by an ordinance, which was approved by the court on Jan. 8.

This case began when ODOT submitted a request to amend the county comprehensive plan and add their 20.26 acres, commonly known as the Meadowbrook Quarry, as a significant aggregate site. This would allow the operators of the site to avoid seeking planning commission approval to operate on the site.

The level of protection led to the dispute. ODOT was requesting a level 5(b) designation, which would limit conflicting adjacent uses to protect quarry operations.

While this wouldn't completely prevent landowners from construction or development in the 1,500 feet buffer area around the site, the operators of the rock pit

would have had a greater say regarding the use of land. According to Springer, the 5(b) designation would also require anybody who builds a home or any kind of recreational user facility to sign a declaration acknowledging the downsides of being next to a rock pit and limiting complaints because of that acknowledgment.

Grant County Court instead approved a 5© level of protection for the designation, which would fully allow conflicting uses in the buffer zone despite possible impacts to quarry operations. This would help protect neighboring landowners' property rights, Springer said.

"I think it's really a victory for private property rights, and I am glad that LUBA upheld our decision," said Grant County Commissioner Jim Hamsher.

With the case being upheld by LUBA, other communities around Oregon can look at this case if they go into the same situation.

"Typically land use decisions at the county level don't really set legal precedents, but when something goes to LUBA and the decision is not overturned, then it gives other folks in our county or across the state a prop up," Springer said. "OK, I can cite this LUBA decision from Grant County v. ODOT where they justified a 5© level of protection and were successful."

OBITUARIES

Steven D. Ayer

Steven D. Ayer, 59, passed away on Jan. 7, 2020, at his residence in John Day. No services are planned at this time. Arrangements have been entrusted to Driskill Memorial Chapel. To offer online condolences to the family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.

Paralee Anita Simmons Bare

Feb. 19, 1949 — Dec. 13, 2019

Paralee Anita Simmons Bare, age 71, passed away on Dec. 13, 2019, at her home in Milwaukie, Oregon.

Paralee was born on Feb. 19, 1949, in Prairie City, Oregon, to Wayne and Louise Simmons. She was raised in John Day and graduated from Grant Union High School in 1966. She married James Bare in June of that year and raised three children, James Jr. (Rachel), Leanne Pinner (Ronald) and Lenise Nall (Jason). She had six grandchildren she adored and went to many of their sports activities. She is also survived by her husband, James Bare, and her brothers, Darrel (Teresa) and Monte, and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wayne and Louise Simmons.

A celebration of life will be held on Jan. 25, 2020, at the Oregon City Elks, Oregon City, Oregon, at 1 p.m.



Veronica Jean Flanary

Veronica Jean (Greene) Flanary died Dec. 30 in Bend. A service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at the John Day Elks Lodge, 140 NE Dayton St., John Day.

Gary Joe Hammons

Gary Joe Hammons, 63, of John Day passed away peacefully at his residence on Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020.

A celebration of his life will be held later, during the spring of 2020, and will be announced at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Blue Mountain Hospice through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. To offer online condolences to his family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.

Madeline Ann Howard

Madeline Ann Howard, 83, of John Day passed away on Jan. 8, 2020, at Valley View Assisted Living. Services will be announced at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Driskill Memorial Chapel. To offer online condolences to the family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.

About Obituaries

News obituaries of 300 words or less are a free service of the Blue Mountain Eagle. The paper accepts obituaries from the family or funeral home. Information submitted is subject to editing. Obituaries submitted to the Eagle with incorrect information may be corrected and republished as paid memorials. Obituaries longer than 300 words may be published as paid memorials. Send obituaries by email, office@bmeagle.com; fax, 541-575-1244; or mail, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. For more information, or to inquire about a paid memorial, call 541-575-0710.

OTEC board seats up for election

Blue Mountain Eagle

Robert Cargill.

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is currently seeking candidates for three board of director seats.

Three positions are up for election in May 2020, according to an OTEC press release.

Position 1, Union County, is currently held by incumbent George Galloway. Position 2, Baker County, is currently held by incumbent Aletha Bonebrake. Position 3, Harney County, is currently held by incumbent

Cooperative members interested in running should call 541-524-2831 or visit otec.coop/annual-meeting-board-elections for nominating committee information, qualifications and applications.

The nominating committee recommends qualified candidates for the 2020 OTEC board of directors elections and requests anyone interested contact them by Jan. 31.

Nominations by petition are due by March 3.



Wayne Wilson, 83, of Richland; formerly of Prairie City, John Day Valley and Long Creek, died on Monday, December 16, 2019 at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 - 2:00 p.m. at Pine Baptist Church in Halfway, Oregon. Friends are invited to join the family for a reception to be held immediately following at the church.

Wayne Kenneth Wilson was born on March 15, 1936 in Parma, Idaho to Guy & Maud Wilson. He was raised from Idaho, Missouri, and the John Day Valley. He Graduated from High School in 1954 in Mt. Vernon, Oregon.

Wayne and Gloria met while going through school together. They married on August 8, 1954 and had two daughters.

Wayne spent many years (40) working in the woods in Grant County. He had a love of falling trees. Spent the last 7 years before retirement working for the City of Prairie City. He and Gloria moved to Richland, Oregon in the spring of 2007 in the home of Kurt and Joan Hills to provide many family fishing outings as a bed and breakfast with all 6 bedrooms filled and Wayne Chief breakfast cook and dishwasher.

He enjoyed fishing, camping, gardening and cooking. He enjoyed High School and College Basketball. Wayne's favorite season was "Fishing Season." Memorable times for Wayne included having his family around him and would be remembered most for his love for his kids.



He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters Helen, Norma, Lois and Lucille; Brothers Les and Leck; granddaughter Jody Hills. Wayne is survived by his wife Gloria, daughters Debra Jean Wells and her husband Peter of the Tri-Cities, West Richland, WA, Joan Marie Hills and her husband Kurt of Baker City, OR. Grandsons; Christopher Wells and his wife Crystal, Michael Wells and Doug Hills and his wife Alicia; great grandchildren Christian, Wilson and Evelyn Wells, Alena and Kyra Hills; Sister Ruth; numerous nieces and nephews.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Wayne, the family suggests the Pine Baptist Church through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, PO Box 543 Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com. *Paid for by the family of Wayne Wilson.*

5166303-1

PAINTED SKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

118 S. WASHINGTON STREET
CANYON CITY, OR 97820
(541) 620-3788
PAINTEDSKYCENTER.COM

Knit & Purl (Beginner Knitting) with Jessica Moore: Begins Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Knitting class for beginner adults. Overflow class begins Monday, January 20, 6:00 - 8:00 PM.

Auditions for "Steel Magnolias" by Robert Harding: Wednesday, January 15, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, and Saturday, January 18 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Roles for age 19 - 60ish age females available.

Intermediate Drawing Class: Begins Thursday, January 16, 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Intermediate students will pursue new subject matter such as composition, design elements, perspective, and figure proportions. Slots still available!

Knitting Night with Jessica Moore: Friday, January 17, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Join Jessica for our first knitting social. Meet new people, share some tips, learn some tricks. Bring your own project.

Valentine's Day Gnomes and Chalk Chip: Friday, January 17, 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Chalk couture workshop to make cute gnomes to give to your special someone or decorate for Valentine's Day. Slots available! Register now!

Music Lessons: See paintedskycenter.com/music-lessons for more info or to register. Music lesson punch cards available to purchase.

For more info or to register visit paintedskycenter.com or email paintedskycenter@gmail.com.

DOUG'S
MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR

Last Week's Temps

Day	HI/LO
John Day Tuesday	54/35
Wednesday	42/32
Thursday	32/26
Friday	40/24
Saturday	40/30
Sunday	40/22
Monday	33/29

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHZ

WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 15 - 21

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Partly sunny	Possible snow	Partly sunny	Cloudy	Cloudy	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy
37	39	34	39	41	40	43
34	19	28	28	22	14	30